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Johnson

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(54) **DISPOSABLE, ROLLED RIM CONTAINER AND DOME-SHAPED COVER**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **220/254.2**; 220/254.3; 220/782; 220/714

(58) **Field of Search** 220/254, 266, 220/268, 270, 712, 713, 714, 781, 782, 739, 711, 254.2, 254.3, 254.5; 206/508, 509; 229/403, 404

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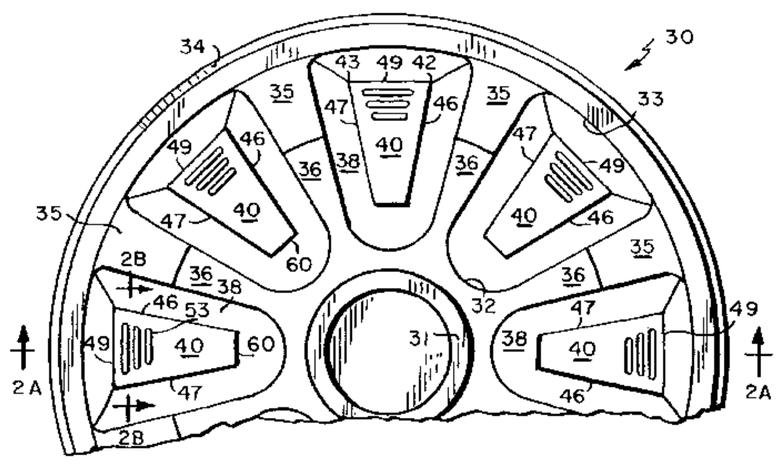
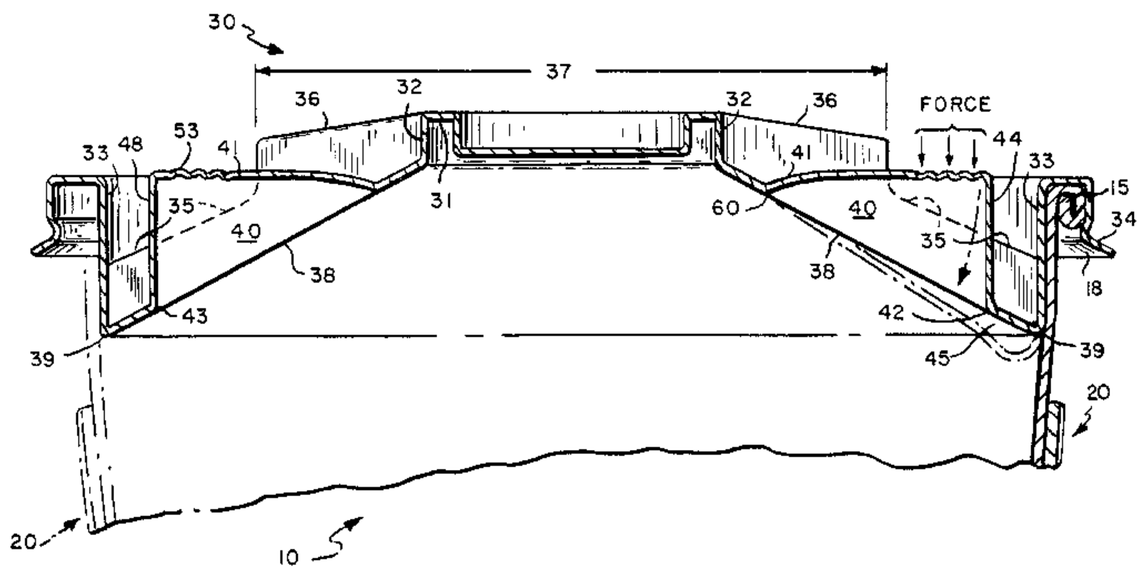
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A container and a lid for closing it are disclosed. The container has an open end, a closed end and a peripheral sidewall therebetween. The peripheral sidewall has a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container. The lid has a dome-shaped structure. A peripheral rim curl is provided for locking the lid to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end. The lid also has a central region and a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl. At least one tabular hinged drinking region is provided in the lid. The tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid. Preferably, the depressed tabular hinged drinking region is self-locking.

35 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets





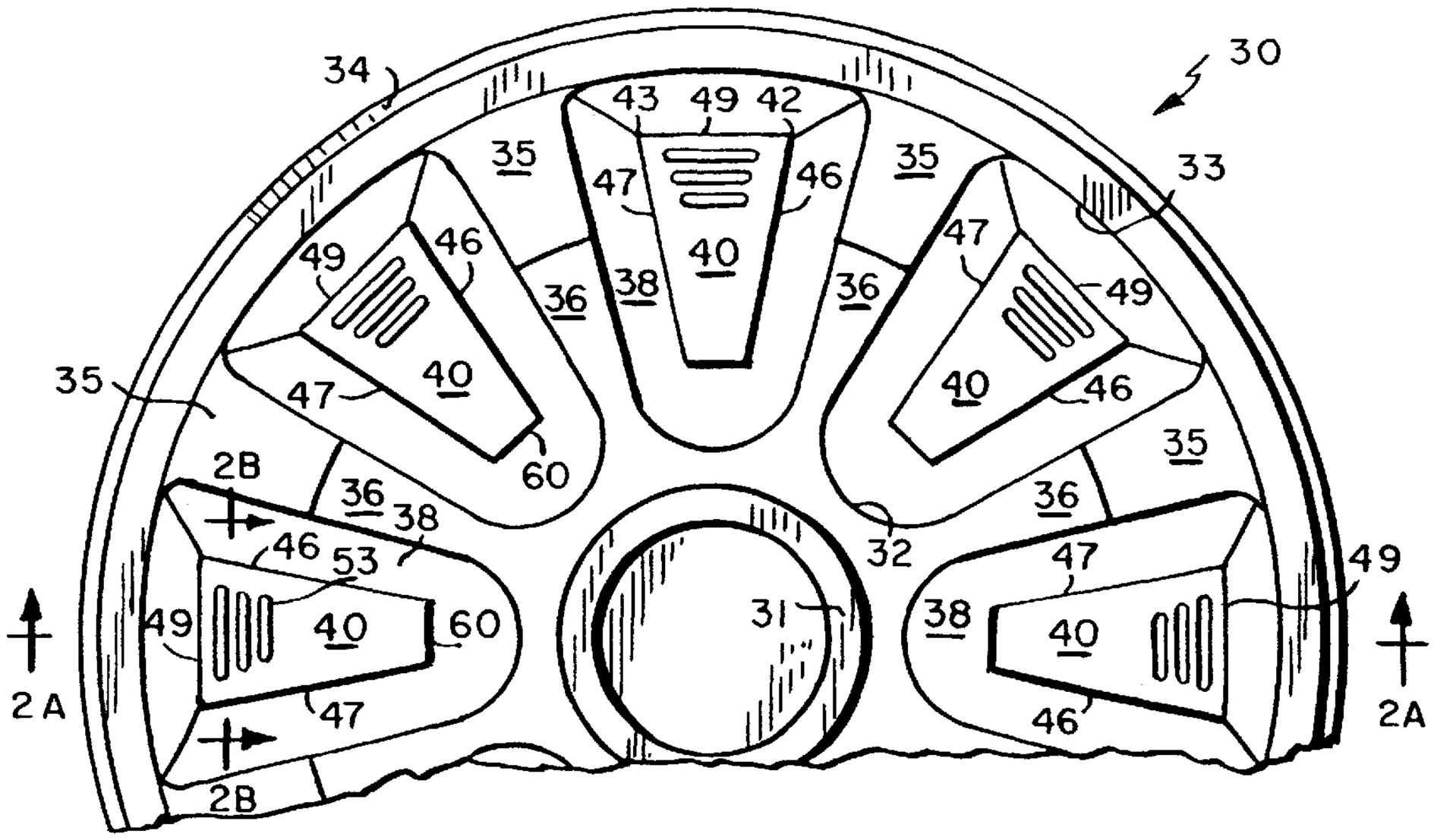


FIG. 1

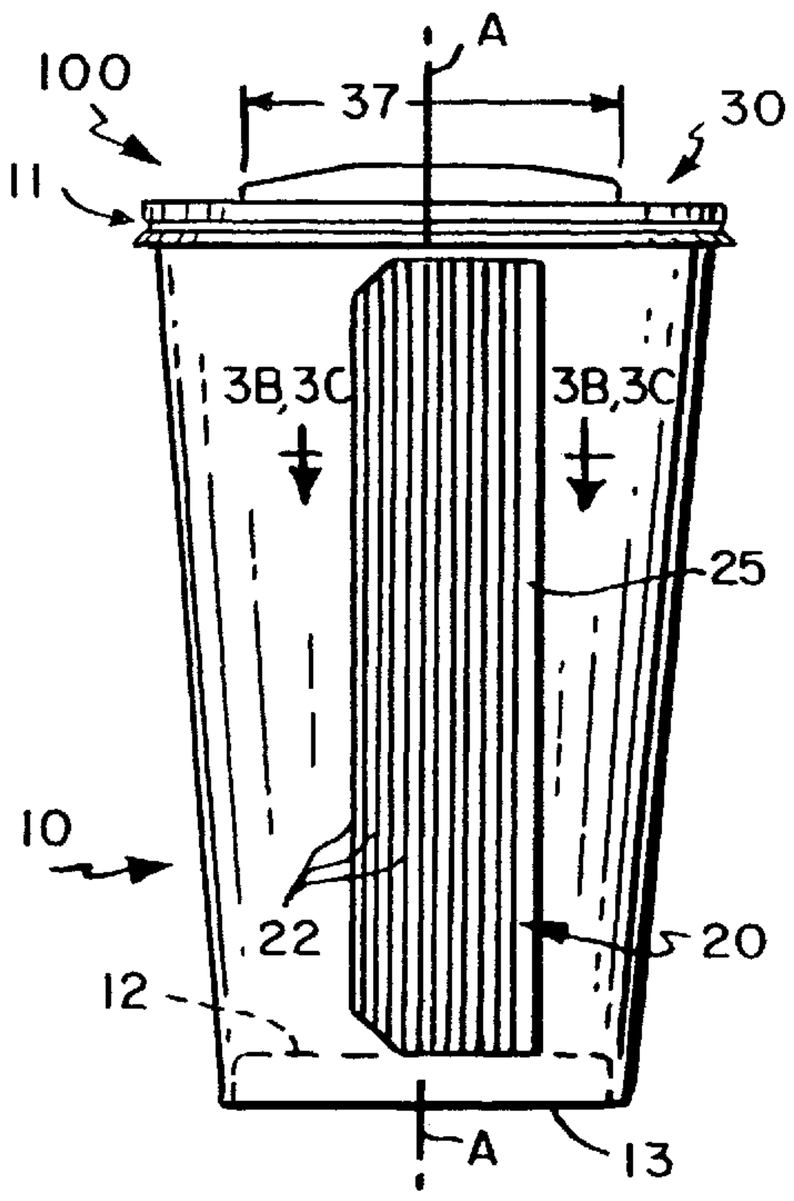


FIG. 3A

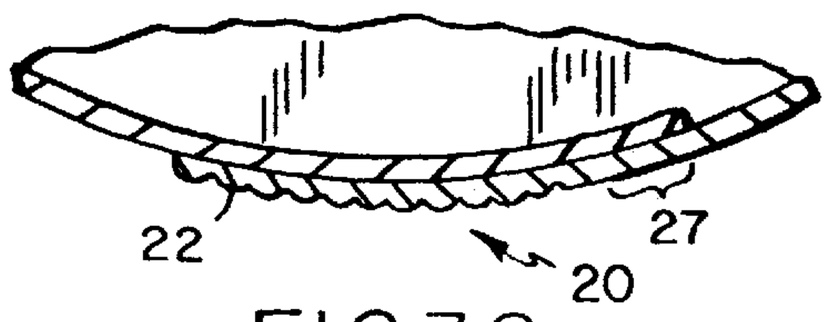


FIG. 3C

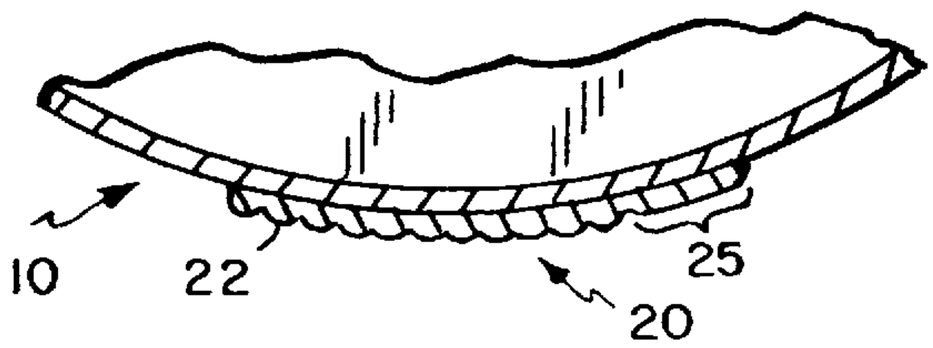


FIG. 3B

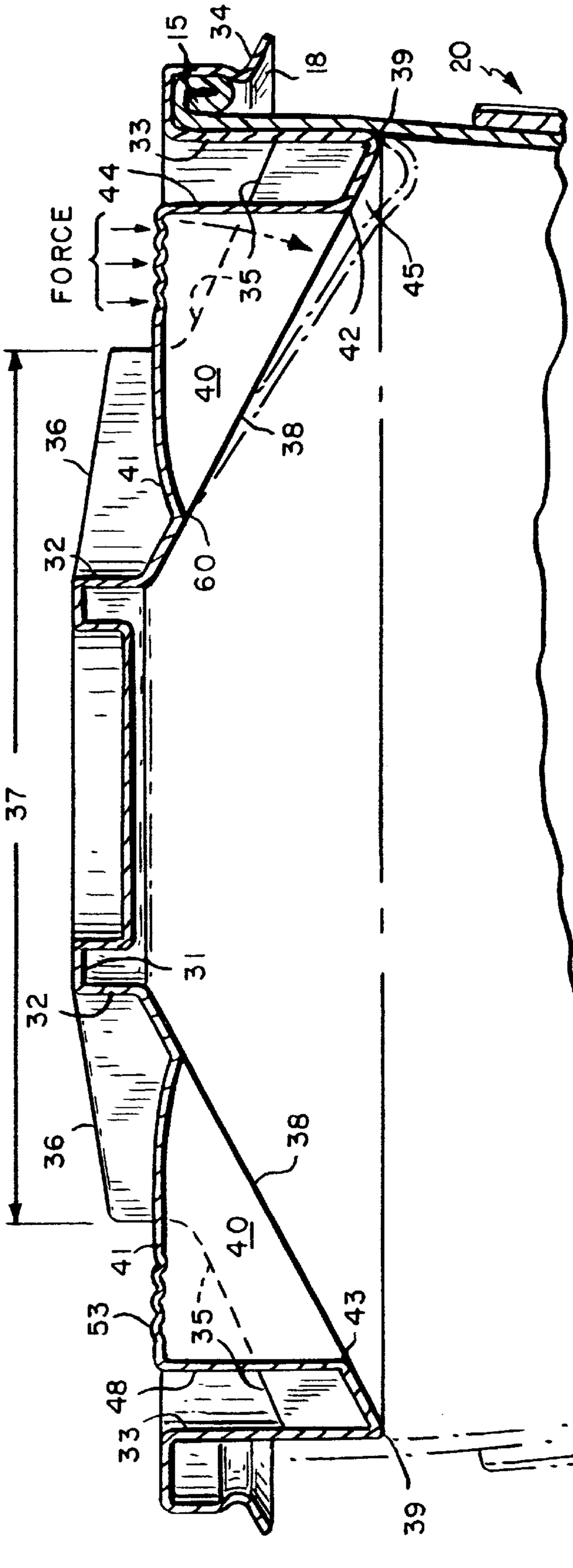

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FIG. 2B

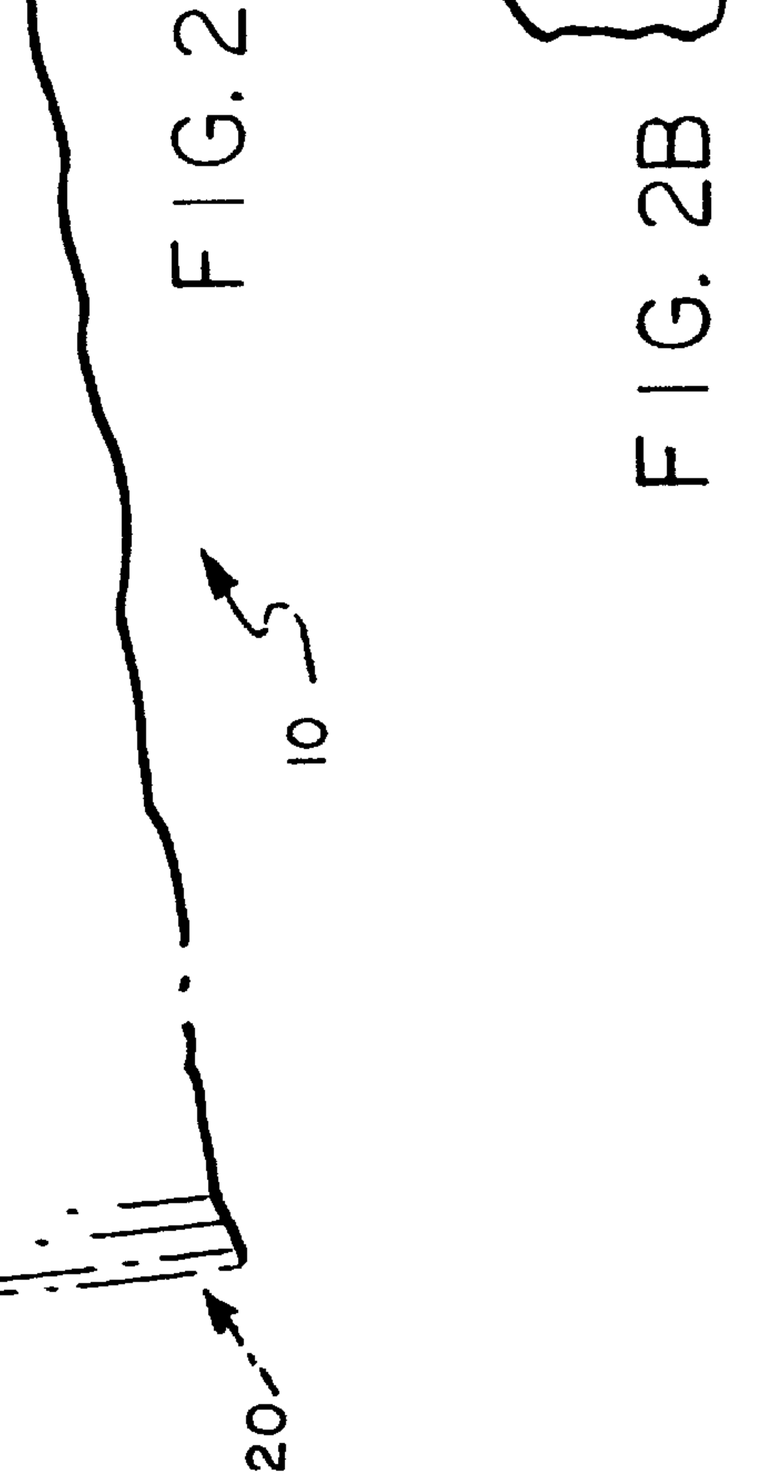
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FIG. 2A

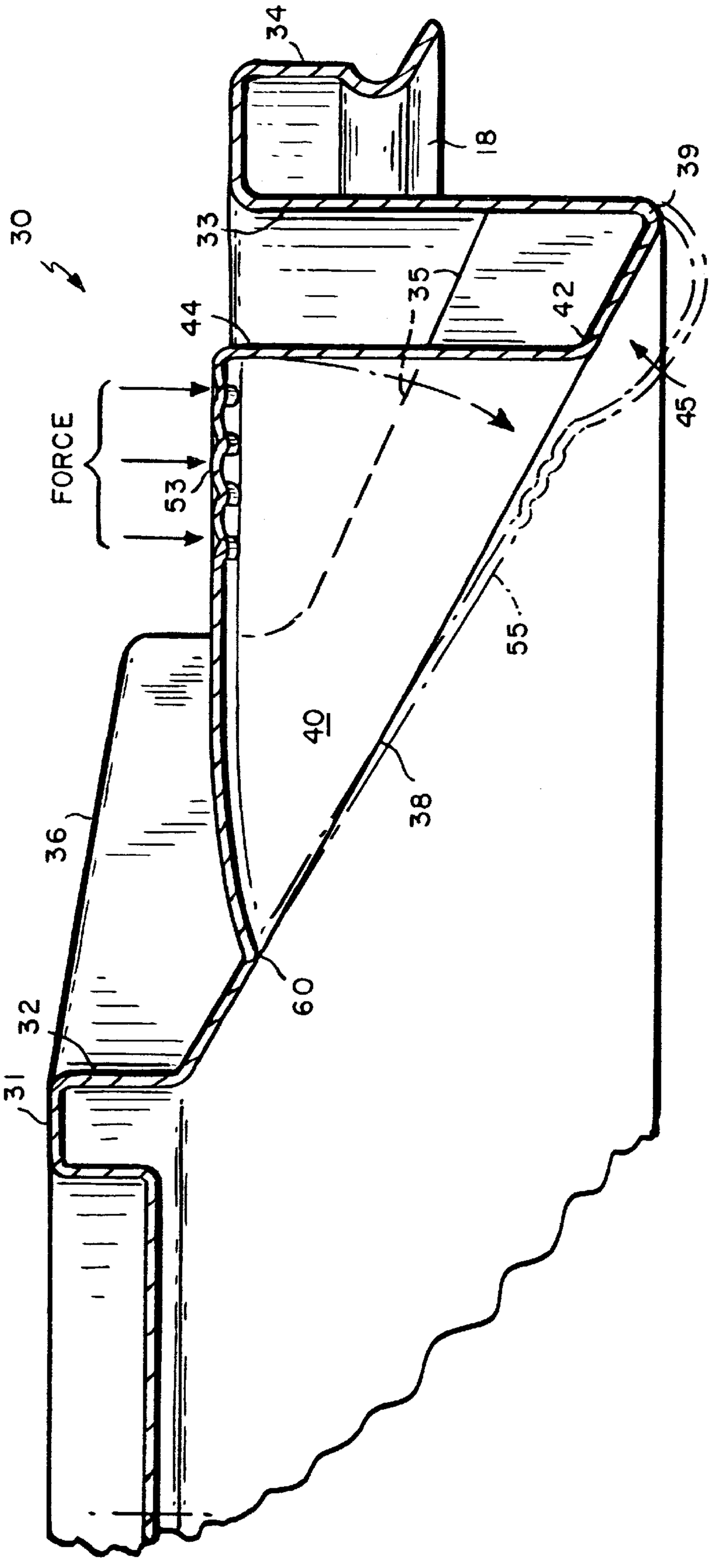

FIG. 4

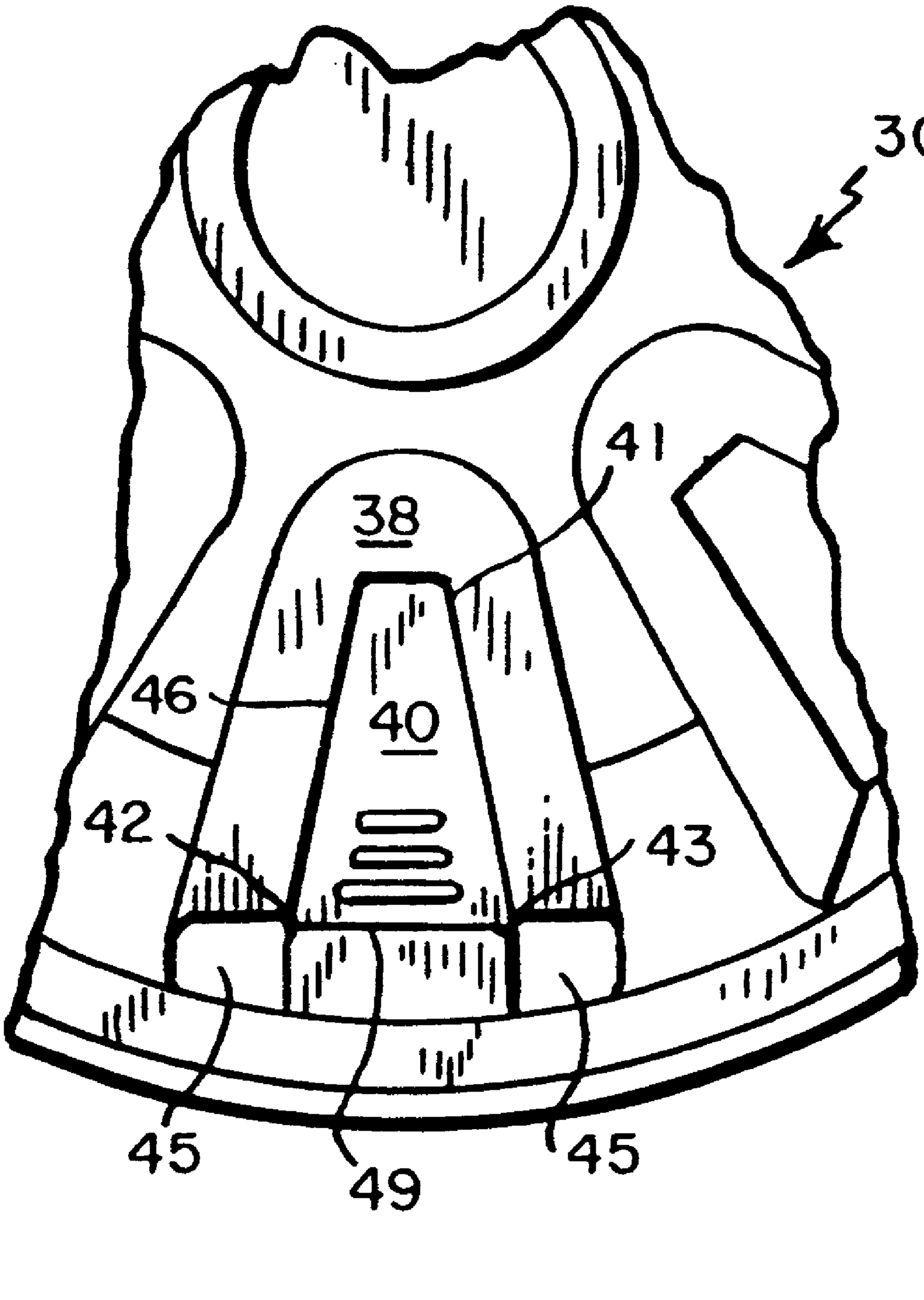

FIG. 5

DISPOSABLE, ROLLED RIM CONTAINER AND DOME-SHAPED COVER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of disposable containers for liquids or semi-liquids, particularly to drinking cups, and more particularly to non-spilling containers with a dome-shaped cover preferably having a plurality of drink-through openings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

A myriad of beverage containers with drink-through covers, or lids, are known in the art. Indeed, non-spilling beverage containers with drink-through lid have changed morning commuting habits significantly. Some of these containers have included small, tear away portions of the lid, which made stacking cups difficult; created a disposal problem with the removed tab; and, in some instances, often destroyed the integrity of the peripheral curl locking means that affixes the lid securely to the container. See, e.g., Winstead (U.S. Pat. No. 4,518,096) and Scattaregia (U.S. Pat. No. 4,438,865).

Other containers have included lids with hinged tabs that rotate generally up and outward from the drinking container, which eliminated the short term tab disposal problem, but some embodiments also destroyed the integrity of the peripheral curl locking means and, depending on the size of the hinged tab, also made stacking cups difficult. See, e.g., DeParales (U.S. Pat. No. 4,738,373).

Still other containers have lids with hinged tabs that rotate generally down and inward towards the drinking container, most of which eliminated the problem associated with destroying the integrity of peripheral curl but, here again, depending on the size of the opening, stacking cups remained difficult. See, e.g., Erdman (U.S. Pat. No. 3,927,794), Yamazaki (U.S. Pat. No. 4,113,135), Dart et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,582,214) and Clements (U.S. Pat. No. 4,615,459).

Further, there are other containers that have lids with depressible tabs or protrusions which, when a force is applied thereto, are progressively ruptured, thereby opening a plurality of slits through which a beverage can flow. See, e.g., Sherlock (U.S. Pat. No. 3,003,668), Edwards (U.S. Pat. No. 3,307,746) and Herbst. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,898,299). Although each of these inventions and a host of others have had an overall effect of improving the design of disposable drinking containers, there remains a need for a drinking container with a drink-through lid for the new millennium.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a drinking container and a lid. The lid is formed from a polymer resin as a dome-shaped structure having a peripheral rim curl for locking to a container and one or more tabular hinged drinking regions through which fluid can flow when the lid is fixed to the top of a container and the region is depressed thereon. The structure of the lid preferably is formed to provide a support region having sufficient strength to hold the weight of a filled container without buckling.

Each tabular hinged drinking region comprises a substantially planar or tangentially rounded raised area extending radially from a central area, or hub, of the lid toward the periphery of the lid. Near the central area, the raised area forms a hinge with the dome-shaped lid. As the raised area extends radially, vertical sidewalls with a length increasing

with the radius join the raised area with the dome-shaped lid. A vertical end wall also connects the raised end of the raised area with the dome-shaped lid. By pressing down on the hinged drinking region, the raised area is at least partially inverted with respect to the dome-shaped structure and slits are formed in the lid that permit fluid to pass through for drinking. Preferably, the depressed hinged drinking region is self-locking.

The container comprises a rolled rim or other configuration for attaching the lid thereto and a pair of tactile comfort strips for orienting the container for optimal use. Preferably, the comfort strips are diametrically opposed to one another on the container. Furthermore, preferably, the comfort strips are formed as a pair of insulating comfort strips. The, e.g., diametrically opposing, comfort strips can be the focus of the strength and mass of the container. Indeed, conventional containers typically are fabricated from a ream cup stock with a 55 to 60 pound density, i.e., 55 to 60 pounds of fiber per 1,000 square feet. By concentrating the strength and mass of the container at the comfort strips, fiber density can be reduced to about 50 or less, which can reduce the cost of materials and also can reduce the environmental impact associated with disposal of the containers.

The dome-shaped, drink-through lid that is attached to the container comprises a plurality of depressible hinged tabular regions. Thus, a depressible hinged tabular region is always positioned in a suitable position relative to the comfort strips for easy drinking. The plurality of drink-through openings enables a lid to be placed on a drinking container in any manner, ensuring that at least one drink-through opening is properly aligned with the comfort strips to provide optimal drinking conditions without having to rotate the lid to align the opening with a comfort strip. The hinged tabular region can be depressed readily with a small amount of pressure exerted, e.g., by a finger tip, to form a passage for a fluid, which permits drinking of the fluid in the container without affecting deleteriously the integrity of the peripheral curl locking rim. Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention provides a drink-through lid for a disposable beverage container that can be substantially non-spillable. Preferably, the drinking container provides comfort strips to insulate the fingers and thumb of the holder from the extreme temperatures of the beverage contained therein and, more importantly, to be the focal point of the mass and strength of the container. The drink-through lid for the beverage container can be opened easily, e.g., with the index finger of the hand that is simultaneously holding the drinking container.

In preferred embodiments, lids in accord with the present invention provide a drinking container that can support one or more additional filled drinking containers for easier carrying. The lid not only makes stacking cups easier, but also can be stronger, allowing more filled cups in a single stack. An added feature can include providing a lid that can also be used as a coaster.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a fuller understanding of the nature and desired objects of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing figures wherein like reference character denote corresponding parts throughout the several views and wherein:

FIG. **1** is a diagrammatical illustration of a partial plan view of a dome-shaped drink-through lid in accord with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **2**A is a diagrammatical illustration showing an elevation view of a dome-shaped drink-through lid on a container in accord with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **2**B is a diagrammatical illustration taken along line **2**B—**2**B of FIG. **1**, showing a depressible hinged tabular region in cross-section;

FIG. **3**A is diagrammatical illustration showing an elevation view of a dome-shaped drink-through lid on a container in accord with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **3**B is a diagrammatical illustration taken along line **3**B—**3**B of FIG. **3**A, showing an embodiment of a comfort strip wherein the comfort strip is adhesively attached to the container sidewall using a strip seam;

FIG. **3**C is a diagrammatical illustration taken along line **3**C—**3**C of FIG. **3**A, showing an alternate embodiment of a comfort strip, wherein the comfort strip is integrally attached to the container sidewall using a sidewall seam;

FIG. **4** is a diagrammatical illustration showing a partial elevation view of a depressible hinged tabular region of the lid; and

FIG. **5** is a diagrammatical illustration of an embodiment of a plurality of flow-through openings in a tabular hinged drinking region.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION INCLUDING PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In one embodiment of the present invention (FIG. **3**A), a container **100** comprises a cylindrical member **10**, a pair of preferably diametrically opposed, insulated comfort strips **20**, and a dome-shaped cover section **30**. Preferably, each of these elements is fabricated from benign chemicals and recyclable materials, or is biodegradable, to minimize the environmental impact of the container **100**. The cylindrical member **10** can be made from a single piece of material that has been wrapped around an axis A—A and affixed to itself, e.g., with polymer glues, adhesives, heat, etc., providing a watertight seal. The cylindrical member **10** has an opened top **11** and sealed bottom **12** so that fluids can be introduced into and retained by the container **100**. The cylindrical member **10**, further, has a rim **15** at the top **11** (FIG. **2**A), which, in combination with the peripheral rim channel **34** of the dome-shaped cover **30**, can seal the top **11** of the cylindrical member **10** to substantially prevent leaks or spills. The cylindrical member **10** has a base **13** for support, which, typically, extends a short distance, e.g., one quarter of an inch, below the sealed bottom **12**. The cylindrical member **10** can take on practically any shape, but in a preferred embodiment, it is tapered from the top **11** toward the base **13**.

Affixed preferably at diametrically opposite sides of the cylindrical member **10** can be, e.g., a pair of tactile, insulating, comfort strips **20**, which insulate the holder's thumb and fingers from extreme fluid temperatures and provide tactile feedback regarding the orientation of the container in one's hand (FIGS. **3**B and **3**C). More importantly, however, the comfort strips **20** can become the focal point of the strength and mass of the entire cylindrical member **10**, permitting a reduction of the mass and strength of the rest of the cylindrical member **10**, which is manifest by using a less dense, e.g., about 50 pound density or less, ream cup stock material. Indeed, at each comfort strip **20**, the container **100** can be about twice as thick as it is anywhere else along the sidewall of the cylindrical member **10**. Thus, when a user grabs a container **100** at the comfort strips **20**, i.e., where the container is strongest, the inward pressure exerted by the holder's thumb and fingers can be resisted substantially without causing the container **100** to lose its shape or integrity.

The comfort strips **20** can be any practical length or width, straight or tapered, and preferably have a textured surface **22**. In a preferred embodiment, the comfort strips **20** are corrugated **22** or made of a corrugated material. Preferably, the comfort strips **20** extend from just slightly below the rim **15** to slightly above the base **13**. In a preferred embodiment, due to manufacturing needs, the comfort strips extend from approximately ¼ inch below the rim **15** to approximately ¼ inch above the base **13**.

In a preferred embodiment, the comfort strips **20** can be diametrically opposed to one another, to conform to the normal contours of the human hand. One embodiment of attaching the comfort strips **20** to the sidewall of the cylindrical member **10** can be by affixing, e.g., using polymer glues, adhesives, heat, etc., the comfort strips **20** to the cylindrical member **10** (FIG. **3**B). Preferably, each comfort strip **20** can include a strip seam **25**, which is attached directly to the cylindrical member **10**, the rest of the comfort strip **20** hanging freely from and substantially unattached to the cylindrical member **10**, i.e., it can be substantially cantilevered from the strip seam **25**. Leaving the non-strip seam portion of the comfort strip **20** substantially unattached allows air to circulate behind the comfort strip **20**, which provides for more efficient insulation.

In another embodiment, one of the comfort strips **20** can be formed integrally with the cylindrical member **10**. As FIG. **3**C illustrates diagrammatically one of the comfort strips **20** can be formed integrally at one end of the sidewall of the cylindrical member **10**. Preferably, the cylindrical member **10** can be affixed to itself at a sidewall seam **27**, which leaves the rest of the comfort strip **20** hanging freely from and substantially unattached to the cylindrical member **10**, i.e., it is substantially cantilevered from the sidewall seam **27**. Leaving the non-strip seam portion of the comfort strip **20** substantially unattached allows air to circulate behind the comfort strip **20**, which provides for more efficient insulation. In this embodiment, the opposing comfort strip **20** can be attached to the cylindrical member **10**, e.g., in a like manner as described above using a strip seam **25**.

A dome-shaped cover or lid **30** (FIGS. **1** and **2**A) seals the top **11** of the cylindrical member **10** when desired and, when not desired, the cover section **30** can be used as a coaster to protect underlying surfaces from moisture damage. To seal the top **11** of the cylindrical member **10**, the rim **15** of the cylindrical member **10** is inserted in a cavity **18** in the peripheral rim channel section **34** of the cover **30** in a manner that is well known to those skilled in the art. With the top **11** covered, the container can be virtually leak-proof.

The dome-shaped cover **30** preferably can be symmetrical. Prior art lids rarely can support much more than their own weight, let alone one or more filled, stacked containers. Prior art lids typically provide a cover using a simple planar structure that provides little support. The structure of the lid of the present invention provides the structural advantages of an arch, which is the mainstay of polyhedral domes.

The dome-shaped cover or lid **30** of the present invention uses a structural arch to provide greater strength to the cover **30**, which allows a user to stack one or more filled containers **100** on top of each other. A plurality of arched radial struts (i.e., arches) **35** radiates outward from the central hub **31** of the dome-shaped cover **30**. The radial struts **35** originate about at the outer edge **32** of the central hub **31** and extend

continuously to about the inner surface **33** of the peripheral curl section **34**. Each radial strut **35** can include an elevated stacking portion **36**, the outer ends of which form a ring **37**. In one embodiment, the diameter of the ring **37** can be approximately the same as the diameter of the base **13** so that when either the dome-shaped cover **30** is used as a coaster, or at least one additional filled container **100** is stacked on top of a covered container **100**, the cylindrical member **10** will rest snugly on the cover **30**, with the elevated stacking ring **37** inserted snugly inside and in frictional contact with the base **13**.

Between each pair of adjacent supporting radial struts **35** can be a substantially horizontal tabular hinged drinking region **40** that extends radially from its line of intersection **60** with the webbing section **38**. Preferably, there can be about 4 to about 8 tabular hinged drinking regions **40** on a single cover **30**. This hinged drinking region **40** can create a plurality of drink-through openings **45** when a vertical force is applied to invert it relative the dome-shaped structure of the cover **30**. A webbing section **38**, which is pitched slightly from the outer wall **32** of the central hub **31** to the inner surface **33** of the peripheral curl section **34**, can be on both sides of the tabular hinged drinking region **40**. The tabular hinged drinking region **40** can be connected to the webbing section **38** by substantially vertical sidewalls **46**, **47** and an end wall **49**.

The plurality of tabular hinged drinking regions **40** provides many advantages for the present invention over the prior art. First, the dome-shaped cover **30** can be secured onto the cylindrical member **10** without having to align a drink-through opening **45** with either of the comfort strips **20** of the container **100**. Indeed, with multiple tabular hinged drinking regions **40** on a single cover **30**, there can be substantial certainty that at least one of the tabular hinged drinking regions **40** aligns substantially with at least one of the comfort strips **20**, which constitutes the optimal drinking mode.

Tabular hinged drinking regions **40** can assume any practical shape, including without limitation a parallelogram, a rectangle, a triangle, a polygon, and an oval configuration with pointed ends, e.g., like a football, all of which shapes are within the scope of the disclosed invention. A parallelogram-like shape for the planar surface **40** is presently preferred, an exemplary embodiment of which is shown in FIGS. **1** and **4**.

The primary criteria for the shape of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** is a functional one, i.e., when inverted, the shape must provide slits in the cover through which fluids can pass for drinking the contents of the container **100** while the cover **30** is positioned thereon. Preferably, the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking regions **40** can be slightly arched along its radial axis, more particularly, the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** can be slightly arched near the hinge **60**, which can permit a relatively slight inversion of a tabular hinged drinking region **40** to substantially lock the depressed tabular hinged drinking region **40** in an open position. The mechanics of inverting the tabular hinged drinking region **40** to create at least one drink-through opening **45** will be discussed in greater detail below.

For purposes of the disclosed invention, the tabular hinged drinking region **40** is not required to be planar. Indeed, FIG. **2**B illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a tabular hinged drinking region **40** that is slightly rounded. It is only necessary that inversion of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** creates at least one drink-through opening **45**.

The inversion of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** to provide a drink-through opening **45** is well known to those skilled in the art (FIGS. **2**A and **4**). When a vertical force is applied to the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40**, initially, the force is transferred to the corners **42**, **43** at the point of intersection of the vertical sidewalls **46**, **47**, the end wall **49**, and the webbing section **38**, which are shown in the preferred embodiment as a lower left corner **42** and a lower right corner **43**. The pitched webbing section **38** and the vertical sidewalls **46**, **47**, typically, can be less thick than the rest of the dome-shaped cover **30**, e.g., because of an aggressive draw ratio, therefore can be inherently weaker. Moreover, molded corners **42**, **43** provide a natural point of weakness in the cover **30**. Consequently, as a vertical force is applied, e.g., by an index finger, to the upper surface **41** of a tabular hinged drinking region **40**, the force progressively ruptures the pitched webbing section **38** at the lower left corner **42** and lower right corner **43**, creating a pair of small openings thereat.

As force continues to be applied to the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40**, the small openings can propagate further across the webbing section **38** and up the corners of vertical walls **46**, **47** to create much larger, drink-through openings **45**. See FIG. **5**. Indeed, the small openings can propagate upwards along formed lines **44**, **48** that occur, respectively, where the left sidewall **46** and the end wall **49** intersect and where the right sidewall **47** and the end wall **49** intersect. As the small openings propagate along the formed lines **44**, **48**, the small openings also can propagate through the pitched webbing section **38**, stopping approximately at the base **39** of the inner surface **33** of the peripheral curl section **34**, which maintains the integrity of the peripheral curl section **34**. When the tabular hinged drinking region **40** has been fully depressed, typically, at least two drink-through openings **45** can be created. Moreover, a substantial portion of the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** lies below the pitched webbing section **38**.

The depressed surface section **55** preferably can be self-locking, i.e., the depressed surface section **55** can be locked into place once depressed. Self-locking can be provided by slightly arching the upper surface **41** near the hinge **60**. Furthermore, the depressed surface section **55** can serve as a splashguard. Also, fluid that happens to be on the cover **30** can flow back into the cylindrical member **10** via the pitched webbing section **38**, which, in design, pitches toward the drink-through openings **45**.

Unlike depressible, drink-through openings of the prior art, the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** in this invention, when depressed, does not progress in a generally parallel direction; rather, the upper surface **41** of the tabular hinged drinking region **40** rotates along a generally circular or spiral path about a hinge **60**.

Any manner of decoration can be added to the cover section to identify the contents, a trademark, or other logo. Furthermore, the plurality of tabular hinged drinking regions **40** also can be provided with tactile elements **53**.

The invention has been described in detail. However, it is to be appreciated that those skilled in the art may make improvements, changes, and/or additions within the scope of the invention. For example, the hub section **31** can have a raised central surface in place of the depressed surface. A logo can be conveniently formed or printed in the central section of the hub **31**. A fewer number of tabular hinged drinking regions **40** can be used for forming the drink through openings **45**.

What is claimed is:

1. A lid for a container comprising an open end, a closed end and a peripheral sidewall therebetween, the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container, the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region comprises:

a raised area extending radially from the central region toward the peripheral rim curl, the raised area forming a hinge with dome-shaped lid,

radially vertical side walls on opposing sides of the raised area, the walls having a height that increases with the radius from the hinge, and

a vertical end wall that connects a raised end of the raised area with the dome-shaped lid,

wherein the raised area is slightly arched near the hinge to be self-locking when the raised area is depressed into the container.

2. A lid for a container comprising an open end, a closed end and a peripheral sidewall therebetween, the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container, the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid, and further

wherein a tabular hinged drinking region is located between each pair of adjacent arched struts.

3. The lid for a container according to claim **2** wherein the lid comprises from about 4 to 8 tabular hinged drinking regions.

4. A combination of a container and a cover for closing the container and adapted for providing openings for drinking fluid passing therethrough, the container comprising:

an open end;

a closed end; and

a peripheral sidewall between the open and closed ends,

the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container;

the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having:

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid;

wherein the container further comprises a pair of insulating comfort strips, which provides insulation from an extreme temperature of the liquid or semi-liquids contained in the container; and further

wherein the pair of insulating comfort strip is affixed to the peripheral sidewall along a seam provided therefor.

5. The combination of claim **4** wherein at least one insulating comfort strip is adhesively affixed to the peripheral sidewall along a strip seam.

6. The combination of claim **4** wherein one of the insulating comfort strips is adhesively affixed integrally to the peripheral sidewall along a sidewall seam.

7. A combination of a container and a cover for closing the container and adapted for providing openings for drinking fluid passing therethrough, the container comprising:

an open end;

a closed end; and

a peripheral sidewall between the open and closed ends, the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container;

the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having:

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region; wherein the tabular hinged drinking region comprises:

a raised area extending radially from the central region toward the peripheral rim curl, the raised area forming a hinge with dome-shaped lid,

radially vertical side walls on opposing sides of the raised area, the walls having a height that increases with the radius from the hinge, and

a vertical end wall that connects a raised end of the raised area with the dome-shaped lid,

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid, and further wherein the raised area is slightly arched near the hinge to be self-locking when the raised area is depressed into the container.

8. A combination of a container and a cover for closing the container and adapted for providing openings for drinking fluid passing therethrough, the container comprising:

an open end;

a closed end; and

a peripheral sidewall between the open and closed ends, the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container;

the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having:

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid,

wherein a tabular hinged drinking region is located between each pair of adjacent arched struts.

9. A lid for a container comprising an open end, a closed end and a peripheral sidewall therebetween, the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container, the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one non-resealable, flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid.

10. The lid for a container according to claim **9** comprising a plurality of tabular hinged drinking regions.

11. The lid for a container according to claim **9** wherein two flow-through openings are provided in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid.

12. The lid for a container according to claim **9** wherein the lid is structured and arranged to provide sufficient strength to hold the weight of at least one filled container without buckling.

13. The lid for a container according to claim **9** wherein a tabular hinged drinking region is located between each pair of adjacent arched struts.

14. The lid for a container according to claim **13** wherein the lid comprises from about 4 to 8 tabular hinged drinking regions.

15. The lid for a container according to claim **9** wherein the tabular hinged drinking region comprises:

a raised area extending radially from the central region toward the peripheral rim curl, the raised area forming a hinge with dome-shaped lid,

radially vertical side walls on opposing sides of the raised area, the walls having a height that increases with the radius from the hinge, and a vertical end wall that connects a raised end of the raised area with the dome-shaped lid.

16. The lid of a container according to claim **15** wherein the raised area is substantially planar.

17. The lid of a container according to claim **15** wherein the raised area is rounded in a direction tangential to the central region.

18. The lid of a container according to claim **15**, wherein the raised area is slightly arched near the hinge to be self-locking when the raised area is depressed into the container.

19. A combination of a container and a cover for closing the container and adapted for providing non-resealable openings for drinking fluid passing therethrough, the container comprising:

an open end;

a closed end; and

a peripheral sidewall between the open and closed ends,

the peripheral sidewall having a rolled rim at the edge thereof adjacent the open end of the container;

the lid comprising a dome-shaped structure having:

a peripheral rim curl for locking to the rolled rim of the container to close the open end;

a central region;

a plurality of arched struts extending radially between the central region and the peripheral rim curl; and

at least one tabular hinged drinking region;

wherein the tabular hinged drinking region is structured and arranged to be depressed into the container, thereby providing at least one flow-through opening in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid.

20. The combination of claim **19** wherein the container further comprises a pair of insulating comfort strips, which provides mass and strength to the container.

21. The combination of claim **19** wherein the lid comprises a plurality of tabular hinged drinking regions.

22. The combination of claim **19** wherein two flow-through openings are provided in the tabular hinged drinking region of the lid.

23. The combination of claim **19** wherein the lid is structured and arranged to provide sufficient strength to hold the weight of at least one filled container without buckling.

24. The combination of claim **19** wherein a tabular hinged drinking region is located between each pair for adjacent arched struts.

25. The combination of claim **19** wherein the lid comprises from about 4 to 8 tabular hinged drinking regions.

26. The combination of claim **19** wherein the container further comprises a pair of insulating comfort strips, which provides insulation from an extreme temperature of the liquid or semi-liquids contained in the container.

27. The combination of claim **26** wherein the pair of insulating comfort strips is diametrically opposed to one another.

28. The combination of claim **26** wherein the insulating comfort strips have a textured surface to provide a tactile feedback.

29. The combination of claim **26** wherein the pair of insulating comfort strip is affixed to the peripheral sidewall along a seam provided therefor.

30. The combination of claim **29** wherein at least one insulating comfort strip is adhesively affixed to the peripheral sidewall along a strip seam.

31. The combination of claim **29** wherein one of the insulating comfort strips is adhesively affixed integrally to the peripheral sidewall along a sidewall seam.

32. The combination of claim **19** wherein the tabular hinged drinking region comprises:

a raised area extending radially from the central region toward the peripheral rim curl, the raised area forming a hinge with dome-shaped lid,

radially vertical side walls on opposing sides of the raised area, the walls having a height that increases with the radius from the hinge, and

a vertical end wall that connects a raised end of the raised area with the dome-shaped lid.

33. The combination of claim **32** wherein the raised area is substantially planar.

34. The combination of claim **32** wherein the raised area is rounded in a direction tangential to the central region.

35. The combination of claim **32** wherein the raised area is slightly arched near the hinge to be self-locking when the raised area is depressed into the container.

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